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H. R. H. EDWARD, THE DUKE OF KENT,
Commander of this District.
(From an Engraving by Thompson, 1820.)

THE MILITIA OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1749-1867.

By JOSEPH PLIMSOLL EDWARDS, Londonderry, N. S.

(Read Jan. 1908 and Nov. 1911.)

The organization of measures of defence, however primitive they may be, is one of the first symptoms of national life in the history of any civilized community in which freedom is valued, and expansion hoped for. Without the power to maintain such freedom, its members, crushed and oppressed in body and spirit, sink into the condition of serfs, their vigour and manliness lost, their aims and aspirations contracted to the narrowest sphere, and their hopes for national or even local development dreams which in all probability can never be realized. In the words of a modern writer "The obligation of national defence is the "first obligation of a nation, for it is necessary to the existence "of a nation. Without the fulfilment of this obligation, a "State cannot exist even in the most imperfect form. A "State which uses no means of defending itself would soon be "blotted out of the map by the pressure of surrounding States."

Another writer says "No state is under obligation to commit "suicide or to suffer itself to be overrun by invasion and conquest, and trampled out of existence by unscrupulous and lawless force, so long as it can resist and repel this violence." "Another, "Let us ever remember that a nation can never keep "its freedom, unless ready to maintain it at any time, and that "for its own security it must make use of those means which "Providence has placed at its disposal." These statements are hard facts, and could be endlessly amplified; they are applicable to all countries, regardless of age, of strength and of prestige. If pertinent to the well-being of the settled and more-or-less wealthy States of this century, how much more closely do they come home to the infant colony of Nova Scotia

as it struggled into life nearly two centuries ago. Let us glance briefly at our province as it was before Halifax came into being.

On the 2nd of October, 1710—a red letter day in Nova Scotian records—a picturesque and history-making scene was enacted in and about the old French fort at Port Royal, when Governor de Subercase and his garrison marched out with drums beating and colours flying, and Colonel Francis Nicholson took possession in the name of Her Britannic Majesty Queen Anne. No retrocession followed as in the case of Louisbourg a few years later; and in spite of almost constant attack and trouble during the next forty years, in spite of gross neglect and mis-government, the foothold was maintained, and Acadia became nominally a British province. In 1748 the district could be roughly described as comprising all the mainland of Nova Scotia, and all of what is now New Brunswick but with boundaries vague and undefined. In this vast region there were but two feeble English settlements—one at Annapolis Royal—one at Canso; and a few scattered French hamlets in the western part of the peninsula. Indians and French half-breeds—"couriers de bois" roamed through the woods intent on massacre and plunder; and any English speaking person who ventured out of the narrow limits of the settlements carried his life in his hands.

With the incoming colonists thus in constant danger of violent death or cruel captivity—it is not to be wondered at that when the new era of government recognition began in the establishment of the town of Halifax, one of the first steps was the organization of the settlers into a militia. During the earlier period (1710-48) such a force seems to have been nominally formed at Canso, as the provincial records show the appointment of a certain John Henshaw and John Richards to be captains of companies of militia there. Nothing is known of the organization of these companies, and one can only conjecture that they were formed among the traders and fishermen of Canso and vicinity for the purpose of defending that settle-

ment and their homes from the occasional forays of French and Indian raiders. Governor Cornwallis landed on 21st June, 1749; and it may be of interest to note how comprehensive—almost despotic in fact—were his instructions from the British government as to the formation of a militia for the new province. Clause 24 of the King's Commission to him reads

“And we do hereby give and grant unto you the said Edward Cornwallis, by yourself or by your Captains and Commanders by yourself to be authorized, full power and authority to levy, arm, muster, command and employ all persons whatsoever residing within our said Province, and as occasion shall serve to march from one place to another, or to embark them for the resisting and withstanding of all enemies, pirates and rebels, both at land and sea, and to transport such forces to any of our Plantations in America, if necessity shall require for the defence of the same against the invasion or attempt of any of our enemies, and such enemies, pirates and rebels, if there shall be occasion to pursue and prosecute in or out of the limits of our said Province and Plantation, or any of them, and if it shall so please God, to vanquish and apprehend and take them, and being taken according to law, to put to death or keep and preserve them alive at your discretion, and to execute martial law at time of invasion, or other times when by law it may be executed, and to do and execute all and every other thing, or things, which our Captain General and Governor-in-Chief doth or ought to belong.”

As soon as the plan of the town had been completed, and the building lots marked out and assigned to the settlers, the paramount question of defence came up, and fortifications (necessarily of a more or less rough and tentative nature) were begun. The garrison of regular troops was woefully small, consisting only of one company each of Hopson's (the 29th) regiment, and Warburton's (the 45th); this little force was supplemented by a body of about 60 Indian Rangers under command of Capt. Goreham, recruited in the New England colonies. The Indians who infested the outskirts of the

settlement began to get bolder as winter approached, pleased no doubt at the thought of the many scalps and prisoners which might become their prey, and relying on the inexperience of the settlers, the small military force, and the impunity with which they had been allowed to lay waste the country during the preceding 35 or 40 years. Several parties were waylaid, stragglers were cut off, and the horrors of a border war were beginning to be in evidence.

An immediate increase in the military strength of the colony, both for defence and offence, was essential, and little time was lost in getting such an organization into shape for action. Defensive works were increased and strengthened, two independent companies of Rangers—accustomed to the woods and to Indian warfare—were raised, and the organization of a militia force in a somewhat rough form was decided on by the Council.

On Sunday, the 10th of December, 1749, after divine service, all the male settlers between 16 and 60 years of age were assembled on the Parade (then a rough and unlevelled field,) and the Militia of Nova Scotia thus practically came into existence. There was little or no pomp or ceremony; it was mainly in the nature of a muster of the men of the settlement, to see who were available for duty, and what conditions existed as to arms, accoutrements and clothing. The following officers were gazetted in the sole official record of that day—the Order Book of the Governor and Council.

Captains:—John Galland, Wm. Foy, Alex. Callendar, John Kent, Gregory Berners (or Ewers), John Heete, Robt. Campbell, Wm.. Brown, John Collier, John Creighton, David Haldane.

Lieutenants:—Henry Windale, Wm. Shaw, Thos. Hancock Thos. Jenkins, Thos. Lewis, Robt. Reeves, Thos. Harison, Henry Scomberg,—Deschamps. Thos. Saul, Henry Wilkins, —Collingwood,—Hoar.

2nd Lieutenants:—Messrs. Purdy, Willis, Ford, Scrudger, Catherwood, Reynolds, Hadley, Gerrish, and Kerr.

A similar gathering of the newly-born force was held on the following Sunday, and the men ordered to fell the trees around the town outside the forts and barricades. The active hostility of the Indians showed no diminution; keen alarm was still felt by all classes, and every effort was made to prepare for emergencies. On the 7th January, several citizens petitioned the Governor and Council to declare martial law; but the authorities wisely thought that the situation was not serious enough for such a drastic measure. Stringent regulations were, however, enacted governing the drill, discipline and duties of the militia; the men were formed into 10 companies of 70 men each (two companies for each Division) with a captain and two subalterns to each; the Artificers were assembled in a separate and distinct company. The whole force amounted nominally to about 840 men. The main guard of 50 men was mounted every evening near the Parade to do duty until sunrise, with other guards of 20 men from each Division; work on the fortifications and block houses was pushed forward to as great an extent as possible. A penalty of 24 hours imprisonment and a fine of 5 shillings was levied for neglect or refusal to do duty. Every company was ordered to exercise for one hour on Sunday mornings before divine service. Discipline was apparently well maintained, and Sergeant Tate received 20 lashes for violence and insult to his commanding officer, Capt. Calendar. The Governor reported favorably of the behaviour of the officers, but could not commend that of the rank and file.

It may here be noted that according to so eminent an authority as the late Dr. T. B. Akins, the Grand Parade was not originally intended as a drill ground for the King's troops, nor had it ever been claimed by the military authorities, but was intended from the first as a place of muster for the militia, although the garrison used it also for guard-mounting. It would seem probable, however, that it was originally intended for any and all military purposes.

In November and December of this year (1750) the following officers were appointed to the Dartmouth militia; the town across the harbour was then a tiny settlement hemmed in by forest, and at the mercy of the Indians' scalping knife:

Robert Campbell,	to be Captain,
Jos. Scott,	} to be Lieutenants.
Thos. Burke,	
Thos. Leake,	
Josiah Rogerson.	

I mention these and the preceding names as holding the first commissions issued to the militia of the Province.

In June 1751, Albertus S. Strasburgher and John Young were gazetted captains in the militia of the suburbs of Halifax; John Steiford and F. L. Bourgeois, Lieutenants; and Lewis Taquit and George Winslow, Second Lieutenants.

We hear but little of the militia during the next year or two, but undoubtedly it did a fair amount of duty. Indians still infested the outskirts of the town, several settlers were killed, and many taken prisoners; the garrison,—Regulars, Rangers and Militia—was kept on the alert. On the 22nd of March, 1753, the latter force was reorganized by the following order. I will give it in full, as it is important:

PROCLAMATION.

for the forming of a Militia.

By His Excellency Peregrine Thomas Hopson, Esq., Captain General and Governor in Chief and Vice Admiral of His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia, or Acadia, and Colonel of one of His Majesty's Regiments of Foot.

In Council.

Whereas, I am directed by His Majesty's Royal Instructions to cause a Militia to be established, as well for the Defence of the Lives and Properties of His Majesty's Subjects as the Honour and Security of this his Province.

I have thought fit, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Council, to issue this Proclamation hereby strictly requiring and enjoining All Planters, Inhabitants and their Servants between the ages of sixteen and sixty residing in and belonging to this Town, Suburbs or the Peninsula of Halifax, the Town and Suburbs of Dartmouth and the parts adjacent excepting the Foreign Settlers, as it is intended that they shall be formed at their Out Settlement. That the said Planters and Inhabitants do forthwith provide themselves and Servants with proper and sufficient Fire Arms consisting of a Musket, Gun or Fuzil, not less than three foot long in the barrel, two spare flints, and twelve charges of powder and ball, suitable to their respective Fire Arms, which said Arms and Ammunition the said Planters, Inhabitants and their Servants are to have and appear with at such Rendezvous as shall be by Proclamation Appointed at any time on or after the 22nd day of May next, in the year of Our Lord 1753, at which time the said Planters and Inhabitants to be accountable for themselves and servants. And in default of such appearance and provision aforesaid, they will be liable to the penalty of forty shillings to be levied on the goods and chattels of such Offender, or Offenders, by Warrant of Distress and Sale, under the Hand and Seal of any one or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Town and County of Halifax, and for want of sufficient Distress such offender or offenders to suffer One Month's Imprisonment and hard labour. Such Warrant to be granted upon information of such Officer, or Officers, as shall be appointed to muster the persons required to appear as aforesaid.

Done in the Council Chamber at Halifax, this 22nd day of March in the year of Our Lord 1753, and in the 26th year of His Majesty's Reign.

(Signed). P. T. HOPSON.

*By His Excellency's Command by
and with the Advice and Con-
sent of His Majesty's Council.*

(Signed). WM. COTTERELL, Secy.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Resolved that an Act be forthwith prepared for the Regulation of the said Militia.

P. T. HOPSON.

JNO. DUPORT, *Sec. Conc.*

A proclamation soon followed by which the militia were assembled on the 6th of June, with arms and ammunition; those of the South suburbs within the pickets opposite the end of Barrington street, near Horseman's Fort; those of the North suburbs between the Grenadiers' Fort and Luttrell's Fort; and those of the town proper on the Esplanade and Citadel Hill. At the later period this year, guards from the militia were mounted every night. A battalion had been formed at Lunenburg, under command of Lieut-Col. Patrick Sutherland; and in December of this year, a serious riot took place there which might have resulted in much bloodshed had it not been for the firmness and prompt action of that officer. Leonard C. Rudolf was major of this battalion. The Lunenburg militia did a large amount of hard and useful work during the next year, and we have detailed accounts of perilous expeditions undertaken by them in 1756 and 1758.

War between Great Britain and France had been brewing for some time: in fact, although nominally at peace, covert acts of actual warfare had been going on for years; and in 1756 the undercurrent of border skirmish and irritating aggression blossomed into a definite and recognized condition of hostilities. Halifax became one of the official naval and military stations of the Empire, and stately ships-of-war and scarlet-clad regiments soon took post at the infant capital. In 1757 no less than 12,000 soldiers arrived, and a large fleet soon followed. The civilian element was small and its numbers remained stationary for years; had it not been for the enormous sums expended on the colony by the King's government, and the large outlay for and by the soldiers and sailors of the various expeditions, Halifax must have long remained an obscure village, dependent largely on the fisheries, and with many years to wait before it could

attain financial strength, and a reputation as a recognised and important commercial mart. These men of the profession of arms were, however, birds of passage in a sense; and as the gigantic and ultimately successful efforts of the British government to expel France from North America developed, Halifax was occasionally left with a very small garrison of regular troops. At all times during this stormy period, the militia was in a fair measure of readiness for emergencies, and at times had severe and unpleasant duty to perform in the exigencies of border warfare. At the first General Assembly of the people's representatives—begun 2nd October, 1758—one of the earliest Acts passed identified the force more closely with the national life of the province than was possible under the former proclamation, and stamped on it the seal of public approval. It was entitled "An Act for Establishing and Regulating a Militia," and is a most interesting relic of early legislation in Nova Scotia. It is perhaps unnecessary to give you this and subsequent Acts in full; but they are well worth examination by those interested in our early measures of defence. This Act may be summarized as follows:—

Clause 1. Provides that from and after 1st of December, 1758, all males between 16 and 60 years shall bear arms and attend all musters, etc.

2. Each company shall have certain defined precincts, and the clerk of each company shall make a quarterly roll of all eligible within said precincts and present the roll to the Captain of the company. Failure to do this was punishable by a fine of 40 shillings.

3. Duty shall be continuous until discharged. Any evasion meant a fine of 10 shillings.

4. Each person must provide a musket, gun, or fuzil, (not less than 3 feet long in barrel) 2 spare flints, and 12 charges of powder and ball. Fine for non-compliance, 40 shillings, or one month at hard labour. Musters to be held once every

six months or as often as ordered. Drill once every three months. Fine of 5 shillings for non-attendance and of £5 to each Captain who fails to order parades as above.

5. Enforces discipline on parade. Penalty 5 shillings or 48 hours jail.

6. Guards (or "watches" as they are called) to be ordered from time to time. Penalty for non-attendance 10 shillings.

Other clauses fix the exemptions, appointments of N. C. O's, further fines, how alarms will be given, etc. All fines collected were to be expended for drums, halberts, colours and other regimental necessities. The Act ends with the following:—

"And it is hereby humbly requested of his Excellency the Captain General, by the Assembly, and it is enacted, that "whilst there is a sufficient number of regular troops within the Town of Halifax, for the defence, the Militia of the Town "shall be spared from watching and warding without the "Picketed Lines of the Town."

At the session of the House begun on 1st July, 1761, an additional Act was put through. Its chief object was (1) to make imperative the service of non-commissioned officers, as such, when duly appointed, and imposing a fine of 40 shillings for refusal to act. (2) Any N. C. O. drunk or disorderly when on duty shall pay 10 shillings or be committed for 48 hours at hard labour.

This Act also amended the former one in increasing the period for annual drill and exercise to eight days instead of four.

Another Act passed at same session deals with the militia when on actual service in the time of war. Any insolence or neglect of duty is punishable with a fine of 40 shillings, or in default of payment with riding the wooden horse for not less than half an hour, or 10 days labour. Courts Martial are pro-



Gateway in Old Fort at Annapolis Royal.



Old Fort Annapolis Royal.

vided for; drafting men by ballot for active service (penalty for refusal to act 10 shillings) and providing for the pay of all ranks when on active service outside their own country. Officers received same pay as King's officers; sergeants, 2/—, corporals and drummers 1/4, and privates 1/— per day.

In 1762 the French invaded Newfoundland and captured St. John's; and in consequence wide-spread alarm disturbed the peace of the rulers and good citizens of Halifax. Councils of war were called, and defensive measures were promptly taken, among these being the daily exercise of the Halifax militia, and the ordering of 200 men to Halifax from Lunenburg. This last was subsequently countermanded, in view of the insolence of the Indians in that quarter. One hundred of the militia of King's county were ordered to escort to Halifax all the French neutrals who were then working for some of the inhabitants of Kings and Annapolis counties. A service company of militia under Joseph Gerrish, the naval store-keeper, was also formed. Other like measures were adopted, but the French came not; the alarm subsided, and matters gradually receded to a normal footing.

In 1763, St. John's Island (now Prince Edward) and Cape Breton were annexed to Nova Scotia, and the militia system of the latter was, nominally at any rate, extended to these two islands. Our province was for the next few years territorially at her highest point, embracing the whole area of the Maritime Provinces as now known,—a Dominion in itself. Settlers came in rapidly, and the country thrived; but the dark clouds of the rebellion in the New England colonies began to be visible to far-seeing men, and serious trouble soon became imminent.

During this period the militia came into no prominence, but did their duty as required. Owing to the fact that a proportion of the recent immigrants were from New England, Nova Scotia was, in a sense, tainted here and there with disloyalty. Halifax and the older settlements were true to their salt; but

Cobequid, the Annapolis Valley, and Cumberland were deeply touched with disaffection. Agents of the rebellious colonies were numerous, spying out the land and looking for good ground wherein to plant the seed of their doctrines. The authorities took in sail promptly and prepared for every possible storm. Among other measures 400 militia were ordered from Lunenburg to Halifax, as well as 100 Acadians from Clare and Yarmouth, and two companies from Kings county. Owing to Governor Legge's anxiety (carried at times to an extreme degree) the officers of the Halifax regiment of militia were called on to take the oath of allegiance before going on duty.

The rebellion in the neighbouring colonies broke out in full force in 1775; and from then until the end of the war in 1782 the militia of the province had a busy and anxious time. The King's troops at first were all sent to the seat of hostilities, and during the first year the town guards and other details were drawn from the several militia detachments which were embodied in Halifax or sent in from the country districts. Ammunition was sent to various central points for defensive purposes, and good use was made of it in several instances before peace was declared. A suspicion of the loyalty of some of the militia—especially that of the Bay of Fundy shore—was naturally felt, but nothing occurred to justify such thoughts. Light infantry companies were directed to be formed as follows:

At	Halifax	100 men
	Lunenburg	200 men
	Queens	100 men
	Clare	50 “
	Annapolis	50 “
	Cornwallis	50 “
	Horton	50 “
	Windsor, Newport and Falmouth	50 men.
	Cumberland	100 men
	Cape Breton	100 “
	Isle Madame	100 “

Truro, Onslow and Londonderry, 60 men. A total of 1010.

Of these 300 were French Acadians.

Hon. Mr. Gould, Colonel of the Lunenburg militia, took command.

In 1775 another militia Act was passed by the House of Assembly. This was an addition to those formerly enacted, and which I have described. It relates chiefly to militiamen volunteering for active service, and gives authority to the Governor and others to enlist such Volunteers. It also covers drafting of men by ballot for active service, penalties for non-compliance, pay, deductions for clothing and other details. It enacts that the embodied militia must serve for such time as thought necessary by the powers-that-be, and also has a clause to the effect that every officer in such corps, except the Adjutant, must be a resident and freeholder of this province.

This Act was repealed in 1776, owing to the arrival of a large force of the King's troops.

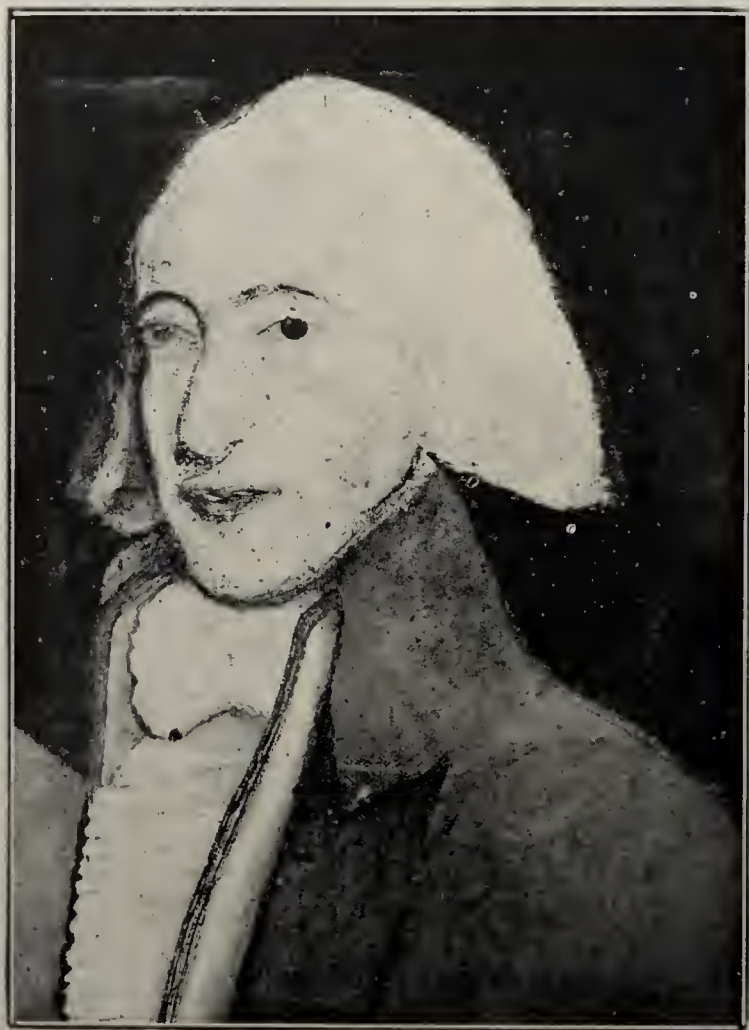
We have a very meagre record of the doings of the force during this period, beyond that a fair number of men were embodied, and that detachments were moved from one place to another as the exigences of the service required.

Early in 1780 a small party of the Lunenburg militia captured an American brig with a valuable cargo; and in a somewhat similar manner Lieut. Wheaton and six men of the Par-sboro regiment attacked and captured a party of rebels who had raided that shore and taken possession of a house on Partridge Island.

In May of this year, the French (who had joined forces with the revolted Americans in their warfare against Great Britain) prepared a large armament at Brest; and the loyal colonies were warned to be on their guard. The commanding

officer at Halifax was not idle. Work was pushed forward on the fortifications, large parties of militia being employed in the erection of bomb batteries. No attack took place, however, and events soon resumed their normal condition. . Next year the Governor reported the force as being in tolerable condition and that Halifax county men could, at all events, be depended upon. This was rather faint praise, but he had not yet visited the other counties and therefore knew but little of them; Imperial officers of that day were not apt to bestow too much praise on rural warriors. The latter proved themselves on more than one occasion to be of good stuff; a very spirited little action took place near Cape Split in May of this year, between a party of Kings county militia and about thirty rebels, which resulted in the capture of the latter with their vessel and boats.

The war ceased in 1782, and little of interest in militia matters took place until 1793, when hostilities with France again broke out; preparations for the defence of Nova Scotia were actively undertaken, and the militia were much in evidence. The Lieut-Governor reported "In the town (Halifax) I have "seven hundred good Militia who may be depended upon. "One Company, about sixty freeholders, are formed into Artillery, and are now practising with great assiduity. I have "another select regiment of one thousand men, commanded by "half-pay officers, and composed of privates, most of whom "served under these officers during the late war. They have "two Companies of Artillery and one of Horse, and can be "assembled in Halifax in six days' notice, part of them sooner. This evidently refers to a corps of the Loyalists (known as the Nova Scotia Legion), many thousands of whom had settled in the province, and who furnished the finest possible material for a sturdy, well-disciplined and experienced militia. Three regiments were enrolled in the western part of the province, respectively commanded by Colonels Barclay, Milridge and Taylor; in the latter battalion were many Acadians,—once expelled—now welcomed. The Halifax force appears to have been in a very effective state, and on a test alarm being



STEPHEN HALL BINNEY,
Barrack Master at Halifax, Died 1836, aged 75 years.
After a portrait in the Provincial Museum, painted by his
brother, Hibbert Newton Binney, in 1791.

given, the 1st battalion, commanded by Col. Pyke, paraded in fifteen minutes, completely armed. This corps also furnished 550 men to assist the garrison in repairing and mounting the batteries. The Halifax Artillery under Captain Tremain, were also evidently a crack corps, and were reported to have in their ranks: "Men of from £100 to £600 per annum clear estate, "who, from a declared principle of loyalty, and utter abhorrence "of French Democratic tyranny, have voluntarily offered their "services."

The force this year was estimated as nine thousand strong, of whom seven thousand would be available in an emergency. The excitement increased as the season went on; in October, 1050 men, exclusive of officers, from the militia of Hants, Kings and Annapolis marched into Halifax; one company under Capt. Willets from Granville did 135 miles in thirty-five hours. Reports of their behavior and appearance were most favorable. After four weeks duty, they were dismissed and sent home.

In 1794 and 1795 the militia were again employed in repairs to the Halifax fortifications. At this period the force consisted of two regiments of Foot and an Artillery company in Halifax, one regiment each in Annapolis, Digby, Hants, Kings and Colchester; also two companies of Acadians in Annapolis, and the Nova Scotia Legion.

In this year (1795) was passed an Act amending and consolidating the several militia Acts hitherto in force. It was very complete, containing 37 clauses, and covered all points and contingencies then deemed possible in connection with militia service. A minimum of six drills a year was ordered. In 1796 an additional Act went through the House, and the number of drills was reduced from six to four; and in 1797, another clause was added, referring to men employed in the Ordnance, Royal Engineer Department, Dockyard and other Imperial works.

400 to 600 militia were embodied in Halifax this year for garrison duty, and 2000 more were under orders to march in on the shortest notice. All were discharged from duty in October. The nominal returns of the force this year showed a strength of 7297 officers and men. A year later it had crept up to 8147, including three companies of Artillery, stationed respectively at Halifax, Shelburne and Yarmouth.

In June 1797, a force of 32 officers, 24 sergeants, 3 drummers and 573 rank and file were embodied in the rural districts, and marched to Halifax, where it remained on duty until the end of October.

In 1800 the militia was estimated by the Governor to consist of 10,000 effectives, and that 6,000 more would be available in case of invasion. As a matter of fact, the actual strength did not exceed 7200, as shown by the official returns. This year further legislation was enacted; it related chiefly to troops on the march, billeting, meals, etc., and fixed the price of dinner at nine pence, breakfast and supper at six pence each.

In 1803, night patrols of the 1st Halifax militia were ordered out.—incendiary fires being common, and the watch of that day probably useless in such an emergency. In 1804, a false alarm of invasion was sounded to test the readiness for service of the militia of the town; before 10 a. m., about one thousand men were embodied and at their posts; two hundred of these were Artillery. The gunners, and four companies of Foot were uniformed, the remainder being in plain clothes.

Another Act was passed this year dealing with the number of Artillerymen to each company, service in the Grenadier and Light companies, and other minor matters. There was also published a summary of the exact position of the militia laws, showing clearly what were then in effect.

The force this year showed a decided gain in numbers, about 10,500 men of all ranks being returned on the official list.



LT. COLONEL J. J. BREMNER,
Lt.-Col. Commanding 1st Halifax, Nova Scotia Militia.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

for the
Sir George Prevost, Bart.

Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of
Nova-Scotia, and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

To *Lieut. Col. John Macdonald*

Greeting.

BY Virtue of the Power and Authority to me given and granted by His Majesty, I
do hereby (during Pleasure) constitute and appoint you to be *Captain of the*
"Volunteers of Nova Scotia" and Governor of the
Fort of Louisbourg.

You are therefore duly to exercise as well the Inferior Officers as Private Men of that
all the in Arms; and to use your utmost endeavours to keep them in good Order
and Discipline, and I do hereby command them to obey you as their
and you are to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions as you shall
to time receive from myself *or any other* your Superior Officer
according to the Laws and Regulations already made or that shall hereafter be made
for the Militia of this Province.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal at Arms, at Halifax, this
18th in the *18th* Day of *June* Year of His
Majesty's Reign.

By HIS EXCELLENCY's Command,

H. H. Cogswell
Secy

Entered in the Assistant
General's Office.

COMMISSION OF CAPTAIN LEWIS EDWARD PIERS,
(1785-1867).

An attempt seems to have been made to divide the force into brigades, as the Halifax troops (1019 men), were officially designated as the 1st Brigade; but no further steps in this direction were apparently taken. The Artillery branch of the service had evidently been making rapid progress, as twenty-seven officers and four hundred and eighty-five men were reported as enrolled; one company near Halifax was composed chiefly of fishermen.

In 1805, Chester came into prominence as furnishing a large force of militia; but more than two hundred of the number were reported to be unarmed, and that state of things existed to a large degree throughout the whole province. The Governor, Sir John Wentworth, gave much attention to the militia, and was constantly worrying the commanding officers of the regular regiments in garrison for muskets for the rural force. These arms, however, appear to have been scarce, as two years later (in 1807), he again reports that in case of an invasion half of the militia would be useless. He estimates that this year a force of 40,000 men could be raised if required. In August, on the departure of H. M. 98th and the Newfoundland regiments to Quebec, 1,000 militia were embodied and placed in garrison; and in October 500 more were drafted in from the country battalions.

Troubles with the United States were again becoming frequent and the military establishment of Nova Scotia increased in importance. In 1808, three regiments of militia were embodied and put on an active service footing; in Halifax alone 1800 men were trained and ready for duty. Two hundred were also stationed at Annapolis for three months. Sir George Prevost assumed the reins of government this year, and took a rather pessimistic view of the value and number of the militia force of the province; he succeeded however in inducing the Assembly to guarantee to pay for 2,000 stand of new arms, which he thereupon issued. A special duty of four pence a gallon was imposed on importations of rum to meet this and other expenses necessary to increase the efficiency of the militia. In 1808 and 1809, over £11,000 was spent on arms and accou-

trements. In the latter year an Act was passed which, among other things, provided some wholesale checks on dirty muskets and other military property, and also prohibited the use of government arms for private purposes.

On the 18th of June, 1812, the United States declared war against Great Britain, and for the next three years the militia of our province were kept on the *qui vive*. The news reached Halifax on the night of the 28th, and on the following morning a Council meeting was held, at which it was ordered to ballot men for service from the first class of the militia (which comprised all males from 18 to 50 years), and that a proportion in each district were to be at once embodied—mainly to protect the more exposed parts of the coasts. The House of Assembly met on 21st July and promptly dealt with the needs of the situation. £3,000 was ordered to be spent for arms and accoutrements, £8,000 for defensive works, £12,000 for extra pay—(with £10,000 more if required) and other necessary grants were made. One-fifth of the first class of militia were embodied. Hostilities soon began, but the duties of our provincial fighting men were limited throughout the war to defensive operations along the coast, chiefly in repelling attacks from the swarm of American privateers which infested our harbours and maritime settlements, and who often treated the fishermen and others of their prisoners with great harshness.

An important and businesslike Act of the Legislature was passed at this session, dealing with the militia and its embodiment for active service. It materially reduced the list of exemptions from liability to serve, provided for the treatment of negro or colored recruits, imposed heavy fines for evasion or infraction of the law, and otherwise enacted much to aid effective organization in time of emergency. In 1813, £50,000 more was voted by the House for militia purposes, at the special request of Sir John Sherbrooke. At this time the force consisted of two companies of Artillery and twenty-six battalions of Foot. During the year a return was issued showing that



GEN. SIR. JOHN COAPE SHERBROOKE.

(From a Painting in the Halifax Club, formerly in the Rockingham Club,
by Robert Field.)

about 500 men of the various regiments were scattered along the coast in small parties, about 400 being detailed to act specially as escorts to prisoners of war. We know that they were kept busy at this work, as the number of captures made from time to time ran to a high figure. Two officers, six non-commissioned officers, and sixteen privates were reported as serving in the capacity of marines on board the Provincial armed sloop "Gleaner." We thus had a navy in 1814 as well as in 1911.

Peace came early in 1815; and at the session of the House held that year an Act was passed reducing the days of training from six to four annually, and also enacting that Justices of the Peace be hereafter exempt from the provision of the militia laws. The total number of the force, reported as effective on 1st March was about 12,000 of all ranks.

Nothing of interest is noted as having taken place during the next year or two, but in 1818 it was proposed by Lord Bathurst, in a communication to the Lieut. Governor, that the militia—which then consisted of about 12,000 men from sixteen to sixty years of age, and enrolled in 26 battalions,—be put on a more serviceable basis by changing the age limits from eighteen to forty-five, and reducing the number of battalions to twelve, each to be of 500 men; to have one Inspecting Field officer instead of four, and under him two Staff adjutants and three Staff sergeants. The Inspecting officer was to reside in Halifax—the others to go on their rounds through the country on tours of inspection; and the care of the block-houses along the coast be given to the militia nearest them. This proposal came before the House of Assembly, but was rejected there without a division, the members expressing themselves as being well satisfied with the existing system. This year the officers of the 3rd Halifax militia regiment gave a dinner in the Corporation Council Chamber, which was one of the most prominent social functions of the day.

In the following year another most animated debate took place in the House of Assembly on the changes suggested and

urged by the Imperial government. It was finally decided to agree in part to the proposal, and to make the age limits eighteen to sixty and the first class for service eighteen to forty; to add one day for battalion drill, and to provide for two Inspecting Field officers in place of the Adjutant General and Quarter Master General.

In May 1820, Lord Dalhousie, issued a General Order reducing the militia to one regiment in each county, with two in the town of Halifax. The establishment was to be as follows:

One Lieut. Colonel.
Two Majors.
Ten Captains.
Twenty 1st Lieuts.
Twenty 2nd Lieuts.
Ten Clerks.
Forty Sergeants.
Twenty Drummers.
One thousand Rank and File.

On the embarkation of the Earl for Quebec on 5th June of this year the flank companies of the Halifax regiments, under command of Captains Liddel and Pyke, formed the Guard of Honour, and the Halifax Militia Artillery (Tremain's battery), fired the usual salutes. A few months later the Grenadier and Light companies of the 1st Halifax Regiment—then commanded by the Hon. T. N. Jeffrey, Collector of Customs—gave a grand ball in the Masonic Hall, which was attended by over three hundred persons.

The House of Assembly this year (1821), passed a new and very voluminous Act, embodying all militia legislation to date, and making many amendments and changes. It contained no less than ninety-three paragraphs or sections, and covered every possible phase of the legal government of the national force.

Reports of reviews, of salutes fired and such matters, formed the chief items of militia news for the next year or two.



LT.-COL. RICHARD TREMAIN, Jr. (1802-1890.)
1st Company (Halifax) Volunteer Artillery.



LT.-COL. RICHARD TREMAIN, (1774-1854.)
1st Company (Halifax) Volunteer Artillery, 1838.

More legislation was passed in 1823, but contained nothing of special importance. In August 1825, a review of the two Halifax battalions—commanded respectively, by Lieut. Colonels Jeffrey and DeBlois—and a brigade of Artillery, under Col. Tremain,—took place on the Common, the force in question having just finished its annual drill of four days. The Commander-in-Chief with his staff and other prominent officials were present; and the former expressed himself as being highly satisfied with the appearance and drill of the men. Eulogy of militia regiments—whether deserved or not—was doubtless as common eighty years ago as to-day.

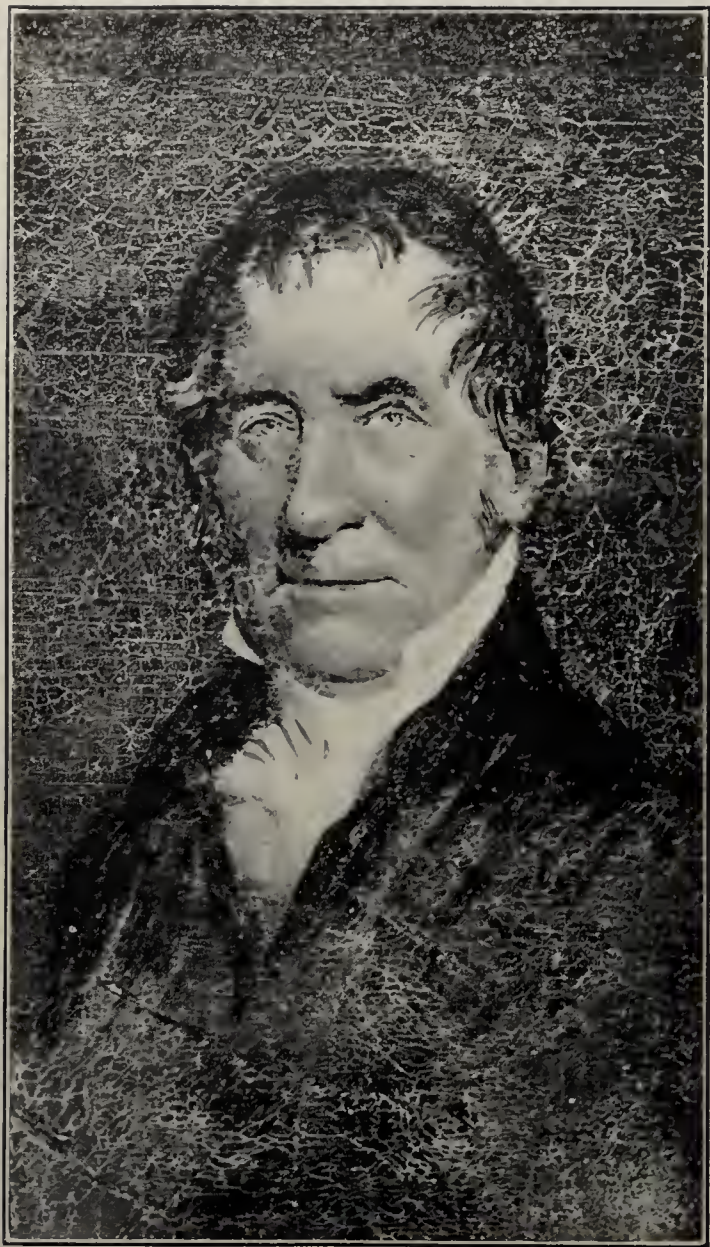
In 1826, more legislation was put through, and an Act passed making several changes of importance. The annual drills or musters were reduced to two, the fines for non-attendance, etc., altered, and a section added to the effect that no militiaman could be liable for arrest for any civil process during the time of his drill or muster, or going to same, or returning therefrom.

The strength of the force during the few years last covered showed a steady increase. In 1821 the official returns reported about 14,000 men; in 1822 17,000; in 1827 18,600; in 1828 23,000; in 1829 25,000, including about 4,500 men in Cape Breton; in 1830 about 26,000. The "Militia List" at latter date gives Lieut. Cols. Cochran and Loring as Inspecting Field officers, Lieut. Col. Forbes as Brigade Major, Lieut. Col. McColla as Adjutant General; two volunteer Artillery companies in Halifax (both commanded by officers named Tremain—a name synonymous with the growth and efficiency of our local forces), four battalions of Foot in Halifax, two in Colchester, two in Pictou, two in Sydney (now Antigonish), one in Cumberland, two in Hants, two in Kings, one in Parrsboro, two each in East and West Annapolis, four in Shelburne, one in Queens, two in Lunenburg and six in Cape Breton.

In the year 1830 the force as enrolled consisted of about 26,000 officers and men, divided into thirty-three battalions of Foot, and two volunteer Artillery companies—the latter

in the town of Halifax. His Excellency Lieut. Gov. Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B., was commander-in-chief and in supreme control of the training and disposition of the militia of the Province; Lieut. Col. Hon. T. N. Jeffrey and Sir Rupert George were his aides-de-camps. The Lieutenant-Governor was a man of striking appearance; as commander of one of the regiments of Foot Guards, he had taken a prominent part in the battle of Waterloo. From both natural and acquired qualities he always commanded respect and obedience. Hon. T. N. Jeffrey was Collector of H. M. Customs—afterwards President of the Council and Administrator of the government. Sir Rupert George was secretary to His Excellency and clerk to the Council. The Quarter-master General was Major Edward Wallace: the Judge-Advocate General was the Hon. S. B. Robie. Lieut. Cols. Cochran, Loring and Marshall were Inspecting Field officers: Lieut. Col. McColla, Adjutant General, and Lieut. Col. Forbes Brigade Major. A few companies were uniformed—the volunteer Artillery, and one or more companies of the first Halifax regiment of Foot in blue with red facings, part of the second Halifax in scarlet with blue facings, and of the third regiment in green with red facings, all wearing gold lace; the great majority, however, paraded at the annual musters in civilian garb, and this doubtless in most localities of a quaint and essentially rustic appearance. The few who were armed carried the old flint-lock muskets obtained from the King's stores, or sent over from England as ordered. Many of these had doubtless done duty at Waterloo and in the later battles of the Peninsula.

Probably a fair sample of the condition of things at this time is the fact that in August Colonel J. Leander Starr, commanding the third Halifax regiment, reported that his battalion had no arms although it consisted of 1100 men and had been in existence for six years. A volunteer Rifle company had been formed by some of its members as a flank company; they had bought their own uniforms and imported a pair of colours, but they also were without muskets or rifles. They



LT. COL. JOHN ALBRO, (1764-1839)
4th. Halifax Regiment, (1833)

had much spirit in the service, and wished to improve themselves; but without the essential weapons of a soldier could do but little.

At the risk of being tedious I will give a brief summary of the laws governing the force at this period.

1. All men in the Province from 16 to 60 years of age had to serve—with certain exemptions for judges, clergymen, etc., etc.

2. Militia thus recruited were formed into regiments, by counties or districts.

3. Regiments could be divided into battalions, of not less than 300 or more than 800 men in each.

4. Every man who failed to present himself for enrolment was fined 10/.

5. Every man over 21 was supposed to be furnished with, or to supply himself with musket, bayonet, box to hold 18 cartridges, and other necessities. For the safe keeping of these he gave the government a bond for £5, with a surety.

6. All arms to be numbered and branded.

7. All arms were to be inspected once a year.

8. Any man parading with dirty or unserviceable weapons to be fined 2/6 to 10/.

9. Any man using them for fowling or private purposes to pay 5/ for each offence.

10. Any C. O. neglecting to promulgate orders for assembling his men shall pay £20.

11. Any man not attending a duly ordered muster (except for illness), fined 5/ to 20/, that is, 5/ first day, 10/ second day, and so on.

12. Any man leaving a muster without permission fined 5/ to 20/.

13. Officers not attending meetings fined, a major, £5, a captain £3, a subaltern £2, for each offence.

14. The Halifax corps to do their militia duties before 1st April in each year.

15. All guard and special duties to be divided equally among the men. Refusal fine 10/.

16. All enforced service over 6 days to be paid for at army rates of pay.

17. Men giving false alarms fined £10.

18. Any man drunk or insubordinate on duty to be put in gaol for from 12 to 72 hours.

19. There is to be a regimental Adjutant who will get £15 a year.

20. N. C. officers to be appointed by Cpts. of companies.

21. A Sergt.-Major and Clerk to be appointed to each regiment.

22. Returns, rolls, and rosters, to be submitted to Government twice a year.

23. Interrupting the Major at exercises or duty fined 10/.

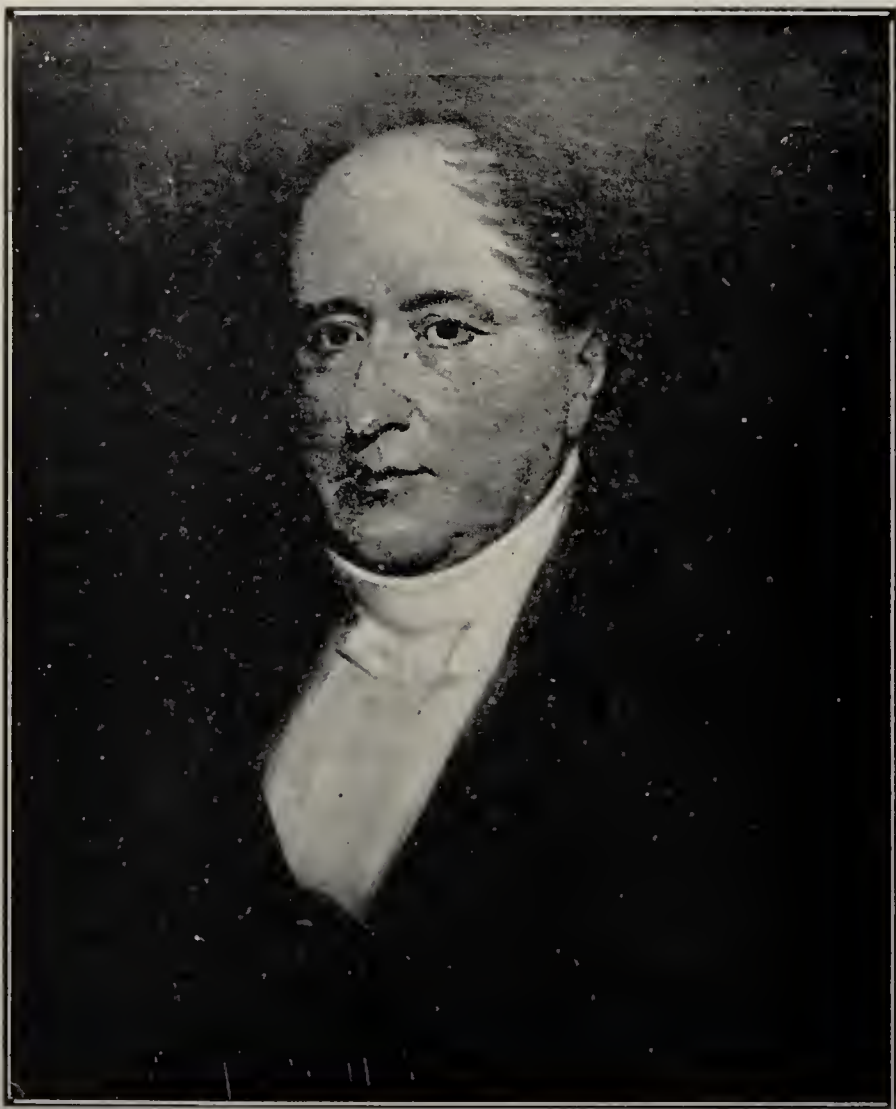
24. Medical Board to report on men who plead illness for non-attendance.

25. If active service (or "real service" as called), is ordered, men to be chosen by ballot from those between 18 and 45 years.

26. Clerks and laborers in H. M. Ordnance Stores and Naval Yard need not serve, but must provide substitutes at their own expense.

There is little of interest to chronicle in this and the years immediately following. The running expenses of the force at the beginning of this period were about fifteen hundred pounds per annum, exclusive of what was spent in the purchase of arms and accoutrements: and there is nothing to indicate that this figure was exceeded to any appreciable extent during the next few years.

In 1831 a new battalion was formed in Sydney county (now Antigonish), and one in Cape Breton. In April of same year the 5th Halifax regiment was also organized, its strength being obtained by detaching the five Musquodoboit companies of the 3rd regiment, and the Shubenacadie company of the 4th. In 1832 another regiment was formed in Halifax county and



LT.-COL. THOMAS RITCHIE, (1777-1852.)
Annapolis Regiment.

(From an oil painting in the possession of Captain Jas. D. Ritchie.)

one in Hants; in 1833 another in Cape Breton, making a total of eight from that island. Seven hundred pounds was granted by the House to pay the Inspecting Field officers, whose salaries, as well as the other trifling amounts required for militia purposes, were always a bone of contention between the two political parties.

Social functions were not lacking in connection with military life. In January the Rifle company of the 1st Halifax regiment gave a ball in the Masons' Hall; in February the Rifle company of the 3rd regiment, and in March the Light company of the 2nd regiment repeated this popular form of entertainment. This is merely mentioned as chronicling what took place yearly during the remainder of the period now covered, and need not be referred to again: it is sufficient to say that the old militia force furnished many a bright spot of colour in the entertainment of the good citizens of Halifax at dances, and dinners, besides making a brave show at Guards of Honour and other duty parades. At the opening of the Legislature in that year for instance, the Grenadier and Light companies of the first Halifax furnished a Guard of Honour, the Imperial service being represented by the Rifle Brigade—the first battalion of which famous regiment was then in garrison. On 5th August the first regiment paraded, and the "Flatfoot" companies marched through the Dutch village to participate in a sham fight. The men were supplied with bread, cheese, and porter at the expense of the President and then Administrator of the Government, Lieutenant Colonel the Hon. T. N. Jeffrey.

In 1834 the force showed a total of 41 battalions, Cape Breton leading with 8, Halifax County 5, Shelburne county 4, the rest tailing off to one each in Queens and Cumberland. Legislation of some little importance went through the House, chiefly relating to payment of Adjutants and repairs of arms, but also increasing the penalty for false returns, and providing that no regiment should be required to assemble more than once in each year. £700 was voted for Inspecting Field

officers, and the pay of Adjutants was fixed at 15 shillings a day—the latter clause carrying by the close vote of 20 to 17. Two years later the usual fit of economy in militia matters attacked our legislators and the grant to Inspecting Field officers was cancelled by a vote of 23 to 13, much to the annoyance of the Governor, Sir Colin Campbell, who forcibly expressed his views on the subject in his prorogation speech. We learn that at or near this period, the officers of the first King's county regiment were uniformed in blue coat and pantaloons, boots, buff vest, round hat, gold epaulets, and silk sash. The first Cape Breton wore blue jackets faced with red cuffs and collars and white trousers.

Militia "Dress" companies now appear on the roll, such as the Highland Grenadiers, and the Light Infantry, attached to the first Halifax regiment and wearing the regulation blue coat faced with red but with plain trousers; also the Rifle company in black with velvet facings. To the second Halifax was attached a Light Infantry company in scarlet jacket with blue facings, while to the third Halifax belonged another Rifle company uniformed in sombre black. The Antigonish Artillery company, the Annapolis Artillery, the Shelburne Artillery, and the Liverpool Artillery, also come on the scene, all in blue uniforms faced with red.

In 1837 the returns show 43 battalions with a nominal strength of 1294 Officers and 30,394 rank and file. The strength of these units varied greatly—from 1813 officers and men in the second battalion of the second regiment of Cape Breton, to the third battalion of King's county, which mustered only 325 of all ranks.

The total expenditure by the colony on militia this year was £929. It may be mentioned, in passing, that the military disbursements for the same period by the Imperial Government in Nova Scotia were £62,988.

The practical extinction of drill in the rural militia (as the muster once a year gave practically no opportunity for train-

ing), and the cessation of payment to Inspecting Officers, had by this time evidently reduced the country corps to inefficiency, as the Governor in opening the session of 1838 called the special attention of the House to the useless state of the force. The rebellion in the Canadas was raging, and the reply of the Assembly to His Excellency's speech expressed deep regret at the existence of the insurrection, and joy that its efforts to overturn good and stable government had met with deserved defeat; also promising to carry out whatever reasonable reforms might be deemed necessary in the militia force of the province. The matter was referred to a special committee of seven members of the House who reported in favour of certain changes, all of which, however, were of comparatively little value and importance, as may be judged by the fact that the Adjutant-General was to receive the munificent sum of £30. per annum. It is, however, only fair to add that a resolution moved by Mr. Joseph Howe was unanimously passed, which authorized an expenditure not exceeding £10,000 for militia purposes should war take place between the Mother country and the United States or any other foreign country, or upon any hostile invasion of the province.

In the following year (1839) New Brunswick was menaced by invaders—one of the long drawn series of border troubles which began in 1829 and continued at intervals until well into the forties. The news reached Halifax on the 26th of February and action was immediately taken. Great excitement prevailed, and all other legislative business was suspended in favor of matters pertaining to joining and assisting the sister province in defending its soil from hostile attack. Nova Scotia spoke with no uncertain voice. A series of most important resolutions were passed authorising the immediate calling out for active service (if necessary) of one third of the total militia force of the province; and other measures tending to efficiency, national defence, and inter-provincial assistance. were adopted.

New Brunswick responded with hearty and eloquent letters of thanks, and the whole episode forms an interesting chapter in

the history of the two Provinces. Under date of 2nd May, Lord Glenelg, on behalf of Her Majesty's government, warmly endorsed the action taken by the Governor and Assembly at this juncture. Legislation for raising the necessary volunteers for active service, if required, was put through on 30th March.

At this period the force had grown into 44 regiments of Foot and 5 Artillery companies, two of the latter in Halifax, and one each in Guysborough, Lunenburg, and Chester.

A glimpse of some features of the interior economy of the militia is given in the report of a meeting of the officers of the third Halifax regiment held in the Exchange Coffee House, Halifax, on 10th March, 1839, when they established the following regimental fund:

Lieutenant Colonel to pay	20	shillings.
Majors	15	"
Captains	10	"
Subalterns	5	"

The caps to be worn by the officers in full dress to be bell crowned and to be mounted with bronze plumes, also to wear gold epaulets or wings in full dress; at drill or undress, green trousers, blue frock and blue forage cap with strap under the chin, sash, belt and sword.

The threatened trouble with the United States blew over, however, and military matters remained on their normal footing.

One day's muster or drill was all that was required by law, although we know that at any rate the Halifax regiments—(or parts of them), drilled frequently, took part in ceremonial and other parades from time to time, and were undoubtedly in a fair state of efficiency. In March 1840 more militia legislation passed the House, one clause of which authorized Artillery, Grenadier, Light Infantry, or Rifle companies to make



ADJUTANT HENRY PRYOR,
(2nd or Queen's Halifax Regiment.)

by-laws imposing fines, etc. The Adjutant-General's grant was increased to £100. and that of the Quarter-Master-General to £50; per contra, the maximum payment of any regimental adjutant was reduced from £15 to £10 per annum. £144 17s. was spent on arms; and the total outlay for the force this year appears to have been slightly over £1000. Economy became more in evidence, however, in 1841, when the grants to the Adjutant-General and Quarter-Master-General were respectively reduced to £80 and £40. At this time there was also a Judge Advocate of militia, Andrew M. Uniacke, who received £11 7s. for special services. Another long Act was passed this year containing not less than 134 sections embodying everything of importance (and otherwise), on the subject up to date. A petition signed by Joshua Lee, Henry Piers and W. G. Anderson, captains of volunteer companies of militia in Halifax, asking that the men under their command be exempted from statute labour, was presented to the House of Assembly, but was ordered to be withdrawn.

On the 23rd of December the Flank and Artillery companies of the Halifax regiments participated in the public festivities of that day in honour of the birth of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII). In 1842, twenty-five pounds was spent on the blockhouse at Lunenburg, to garrison which a company of Artillery had been formed there.

In July of this year the Adjutant General of the force, Edward Wallace, wrote some observations on the militia law then in force which shows that the old system which gave four days training and inspection by a field officer from the Imperial Army had now been reduced to one day's muster, with no regular inspector. What little training existed was largely left to the imagination and knowledge of the commanding officer of the regiment, and consequently these annual musters amounted simply to a roll-call with imposition of fines; there was time for nothing else. The young officers had practically no opportunity of learning their work. The Dress Flank companies which used to be so smart and had furnished so many

men for duty, were now fast breaking up. Altogether the system was in a deplorable state.

The above report led to an examination by J. W. Johnston, then prominent in the Government, who made a report on it to His Excellency on 30th June, 1842. As may have been expected from a civilian it was very non-committal and excused the lack of efficient training and work, by a wish to save the people's time and money.

In 1844 an Act was passed cancelling all musters, drill or training of the militia, unless specially ordered: also providing that no more payments be made to regimental adjutants—their occupation, like Othello's, being gone.

Matters drifted along in this easy-going way for several years with the little or nothing of interest to mention. In 1852 the Assembly seems to have waked up a little in regard to militia matters, and stock was taken of the various arms and accoutrements in possession of the force. This showed that a total of about seven thousand muskets and four hundred rifles were in use or available, the same being distributed (proportionately to enrolled strength), among the greater number of the various regiments—eleven corps, however, being totally unarmed. A committee examined or took evidence on the state of these arms and other stores, and practically condemned them all and recommended that they be sold at public auction. This proposition did not meet the views of Downing Street, who naturally wished to see other and more efficient arms available before disposing of the old ones, bad as the latter undoubtedly were. No further action appears to have been taken.

Early in 1854 war was declared against Russia. Nova Scotia, in common with the other British North American colonies, entered heartily into the spirit of the contest, both Legislative Council and House of Assembly sending addresses to Her Majesty, expressive of loyalty and willingness to assist by maintaining the defence of the province should the rights



ANDREW MITCHELL UNIACKE, ESQ., (1809-1895.)
Judge Advocate of Militia.

of the British Empire be attacked on these coasts. In forwarding these, the Lt.-Governor, Sir Gaspard LeMarchant, very optimistically informed the Imperial authorities that if the exigencies of warfare made it expedient or necessary to withdraw one or both of the regiments then in garrison in Halifax, an effective military force could be raised in the Province to undertake the duties of the garrison, and which force could, if circumstances made it necessary, be augmented to a strength of fifty thousand men. The authorities, however, retained here one regiment, the 76th, throughout the war, so the suggested embodiment of part of the provincial militia did not take place.

In the spring of 1855 an amending Act to the existing militia laws was passed, which embodied several features of interest. The Governor-in-Council was authorized to dispose of all un-serviceable arms and stores, and to expend a sum not exceeding two thousand pounds on new material. Also to form Artillery, Light Infantry, Grenadier or Rifle companies, to be composed of volunteers (distinct from the militia), to serve in such companies, uniforms and saddlery to be provided at volunteer's own expense; no pay was specified, the honour of serving being considered a sufficient emolument. This clause, however, merely legalized conditions which had already existed for fifteen or twenty years in the Nova Scotia forces. A sign of the times was the grant this year, of thirty pounds to pay for the alteration from flint to percussion of fifty rifles for the use of the Pictou volunteer Artillery companies.

In 1856 nothing of interest is recorded: but early in 1857 the Lieut. Governor, in response to instructions received from the Imperial government, transmitted an elaborate report on the state of Nova Scotia militia at that period, which space does not permit repetition here, but which is well worth careful examination by those interested.

An item worth noting was the request in 1858 of a number of Germans ately belonging to the Foreign Legion, but now residing at the Acadia Iron Mines, Londonderry, to be allowed to

form a volunteer company of militia. Nothing definite appears to have resulted from this.

We have now reached the period of practical citizen soldiering which, with certain changes, is in existence today. The volunteer movement of 1859 was one of the events of the century, and revolutionized the habits, thoughts, health and aims of millions of Britons, young and old, in all parts of the Empire. While it at first in British North America as well as in Great Britain ran concurrently with the old constitutional force, the two eventually formed one body governed largely by the more vigorous organization of voluntary service which resulted in the present volunteer militia. In the Mother-land, as all know, the two forces pursued separate and distinct courses until a very few years ago when they joined hands, renewed their youth, and now flourish under the somewhat cumbrous and unmeaning title of "Territorials." Nova Scotia was early in the game, thanks to the foresight of the energetic Lieut. Governor the Earl of Mulgrave, and in the fall and winter of 1859 and 1860 a large number of military organizations of this nature were formed. The Lieut. Governor had always absolute control in such matters, and there being no Minister or departmental head to interfere, party politics could not exert their baneful influence as in Canada a few years ago.

During the early months of 1859 the Earl of Mulgrave sent home a series of reports on the state of the provincial militia which gave a certain amount of information about the then condition of the force, but were chiefly devoted to suggestions for the formation of volunteer rifle corps throughout the colonies, and asking the approval of the Imperial authorities for the carrying out of his proposals. These reports are of much importance in view of their far reaching results. He asked for the loan of sufficient modern and serviceable arms to equip such a force: but the home authorities in acknowledging his first despatch, and expressing their approval of his suggestions, stated that its supply of modern rifles was as yet insufficient for the needs of even the regular army and that therefore none could



LT.-COL. ANDREW KERR MACKINLAY, (1831-1889.)
Halifax Volunteer Battalion. Captain 1860, Major 1865,
Lt.-Colonel 1870.



LT.-COL. GEO. R. ANDERSON, (left).
 LT.-COL. A. K. MACKINLAY, (right).
 (Uniform of Scottish Rifles.)



Standing left—ADJT. J. N. RITCHIE,
 " right—MAJOR B. W. SALTER,
 Sitting right—MAJOR — BRIAND,
 " left—LT.COL. JAMES B. OXLEY.

be spared, adding very sensibly "that in a large and prosperous colony such as Nova Scotia, the cost of arming its militia is not "a charge which should be derived from the Imperial treasury." Time does not permit me to give in detail any more of the voluminous correspondence on the subject between Downing Street and the Lieut. Governor; it is sufficient to say that its outcome was of a nature most gratifying to all patriotic Nova Scotians.

In June Lord Mulgrave sent a circular letter to the commanding officer of each militia regiment in the province asking him to use his best endeavours to raise one or more volunteer companies. Almost concurrently with this action of the Governor, Major-General Sir Fenwick Williams of Kars, a native of Nova Scotia, was sent from England to assume the command of the forces in British North America. He was warmly interested in the volunteer movement, and in September was instrumental in forwarding to Halifax three thousand rifles for use in this connection. These arrived on the first of November and were soon put to good use. The honour of being the premier organization in the new movement fell to the easternmost point of the province and as early as September of this year (1859) the Governor was able to report the existence of a corps of one hundred and seventy men at Sydney Mines, closely followed by one of one hundred and twenty rank and file at Albion Mines. The General Mining Association, then proprietors of the collieries at Sydney Mines, generously provided uniforms for the whole of these companies.

By midsummer of 1860 thirty volunteer companies had been organized and were officially recognized. They represented all parts of the Province, No. 1 being in Yarmouth, No. 30 in Sydney, and numbered about twenty-three hundred men in all. Halifax and Dartmouth furnished six of these corps, known severally as the Scottish Rifles, Chebucto Greys, Mayflower Rifles, Halifax Rifles, Irish Volunteer Rifles and the Dartmouth Engineers. They were divided into eleven companies with a strength of over eight hundred rank and file.

In May, six of these companies were formed into a battalion known as the Halifax Volunteer battalion, under command of Capt. Chearnley of the Chebucto Greys. The visit of the Prince of Wales to this province in July kept all the newly formed volunteers on the *qui vive*, guards of honour being furnished at various stations, while other functions received all necessary attention from the new and popular soldiery.

All bought their own uniforms, the selection of which was purely a voluntary matter by each unit. This naturally resulted in a marked lack of similarity—all colours being represented—but it brought variety, and a wholesome measure of rivalry between the different corps or companies. Sir Fenwick Williams of Kars at this time became Honorary Colonel of the Halifax battalion.

While certain legislation in 1855 had authorized the formation of volunteers in connection with special companies of the regular recognised militia of the province, its scope was naturally a very limited one, far short of what the present movement demanded. Accordingly in May of this year (1860), was passed "*An Act to provide for the organization of a volunteer militia force for the defence of this Province.*" Its preamble was worded in a lofty and dignified manner. It read:

"Whereas while large standing armies are maintained by the
"despotic powers of Europe, it is necessary that the physical
"resources of the British Empire should be ascertained and
"organized, that its integrity may be preserved, its commerce
"protected, and its powers and influence maintained."

"And whereas the youth of this Province have shown a
"laudable spirit of emulation in coming forward to enroll them-
"selves as volunteers for the defence of their country, and it is
"necessary to provide them with the means of acquiring such
"discipline and training as will render them an effective force
"for that purpose:"



LT.-COLONEL WILLIAM CHEARNLEY,

**Late Captain 8th (or King's) Regt. of Foot; Captain Command-
ing Chebucto Greys; Lt.-Colonel of Halifax Volunteer
Battalion, 1865; Died 1870.**

"Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly," and so on:

Its chief enactments were,

1. That the Governor may spend a sum not exceeding \$8000.00 per annum in payment of the services of staff officers and drill sergeants who have been trained in the British army, and in the purchase and disposition of arms, accoutrements, ammunition, etc., necessary for said volunteer force.

2. The Governor may combine the volunteer companies so raised with the militia regiments of the counties from which they are drawn, or may organize and drill them as a separate and distinct force.

It also contained other provisos of minor importance.

The movement so well begun by Lord Mulgrave and so vigorously taken up by the young men of the province, thus received official sanction, and was now legally armed for expansion and fresh effort.

Nothing special appears to have marked the latter months of 1860 so far as militia matters were concerned; but the zeal of the newly formed volunteer corps showed no abatement, and the movement made substantial progress. Uniforms for the various companies were adopted, and put into use as soon as they could be obtained. Full details of these (so far as the Halifax companies are concerned), and a large amount of other valuable information is given by Lieut. Col. Egan (late 63rd regiment), in his very interesting book entitled, "*The Halifax Volunteer Battalion and Volunteer companies 1859-1877*," printed in 1888;—the only regimental history published in this province that I know of.

Rifle shooting now began to be a leading feature of a good soldier's work and the rifle range at Point Pleasant was the scene of many a hardly-fought encounter between the various local commands. In October 1861 the first general rifle com-

petition—open to volunteers from all parts of the province—was held at Windsor, and Halifax men carried off most of the honours of the day.

Some legislation of importance to the force went through the House this year, and can be summarized as follows:

1. Provisions of the militia laws to apply as much as possible to volunteer corps.
2. Members of all corps to be divided into three classes: effective, non-effective and honorary.
3. Volunteers to be exempt from statute labour.
4. Each corps may pass by-laws, levy fines, etc., and the means for collecting latter are defined.

In November the Lieut. Governor made his usual report for the information of the Imperial authorities, dealing chiefly with the arms, old and new, then in the colony and available for the citizen soldiery: also with the deficiencies that existed in this respect and what equipment would be available in case of a sudden emergency.

Civil war was then raging in the neighboring republic, and the relations between the latter and the British North American provinces were somewhat strained. Within a very few weeks they approached closely to the breaking point, the seizure of the Southern commissioners on board the British ship "Trent" forcing decisive action on the Queen's government and arousing an intensely warlike spirit through all B. N. A. This incident had a marvellously stimulating effect on the auxiliary forces of the colonies, bringing into existence many units which have since developed into the leading military organizations of the Dominion. In December the Adjutant General reported that great anxiety has been manifested by the enrolled volunteers both in the metropolis and in the country to learn their duties and drill. His report also stated that thirty-seven companies existed in the province with a total effective strength of 1516



LT.-COL. RICHARD BROWN, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., (1805-1882.)
Sydney Mines Volunteers.
(Author of History of the Island of Cape Breton published in 1869.)



CAPT EDMUND MONTGOMERY H. VIETH,
Adjutant 15th Regt. N. S. Militia.
(In full-dress uniform, 1867.)



LT.-COLONEL WILLIAM H. CREIGHTON,
2nd Brigade (Halifax County) Artillery,
N. S. Militia, from about 1866.
(Undress uniform, with forage-cap.)

officers and men, and 645 non-effective—the latter being chiefly recruits who had not yet had time to qualify: and that 2038 rifles had been issued to the various corps. In the following March (1862) the strength had increased to fifty companies with approximately 2500 members.

It was now fully recognized that the provincial militia (which must not be confused with the volunteers or volunteer militia), practically existed only on paper, and was useless as a military force: the annual reports of this and the preceding year make this point clear. Most of the officers were much over age, and disinclination to resign was as marked as the inability to do efficient duty. The force is reported as being disintegrated and utterly unorganized, although its nominal strength at this period was about 44,000 officers and men in 48 country regiments, the available arms *of any value* for the whole outfit being only 200 rifles. It was also officially recommended that "it is most desirable that the militia and volunteer service "of this province should go hand in hand and that in the matter "of training they should cordially co-operate." With this, no doubt, in view, a new militia act passed the House this year, which embodied and combined all previous legislation on both militia and volunteers. This was a most important piece of work, fully up to date, in that it recognized the existing liability of a sudden transition from peace to war, and enacted measures dealing effectively with any emergency that might call for the whole strength of the province to be exerted. It contained 133 clauses. The militia force of the province was in a sense legally rejuvenated, and put on a new and fairly serviceable footing. Much energy was exerted in the re-organization, and an excellent report of the Adjutant-General, Colonel Sinclair, covering his work in this connection, specifies the methods adopted towards the desired end. He points out that the old organization had first to be cancelled, and all appointments and promotions officially stopped, until a certain measure of efficiency could be fulfilled by the applicants; that the officers of the old force were, as a whole, useless, and

many of them had to be asked to resign; they were replaced by younger and more energetic men trained for a certain specified period under capable imperial officers and N. C. O., and were required to pass examinations as proof of their efficiency before being gazetted or promoted.

The volunteers played an important role in this reorganization by furnishing many of its most efficient men to the commissioned ranks of the various militia regiments through the province.

The net amount expended by the local government this year on militia and volunteer purposes was \$19,417.69—a marked contrast to the state of things a very few years earlier when one-tenth of that sum was considered excessive.

The Militia Act in 1862 was extended next year by placing the force when called out for active service under the Mutiny Act and Articles of War, and subject to all other laws then applicable to Her Majesty's troops in the province with the exception of corporal punishment. Other changes were made by the Act, but of a minor nature.

Drills and parades were steadily gone on with by the volunteers this year; also the militia had the privilege of no less than five days duty, each daily parade being for four hours: in addition to this the officers were required to perform twenty-eight drills each of three hours duration. The volunteers turned out also with the sister force during the year now under mention. Four of these general parades were devoted to company drill and one to battalion movements.

A review was held on the 21st June, in which the Windsor, Halifax and Truro volunteer companies paraded with the Imperial troops. In October the provincial rifle matches were held in Truro and in a general way the spirit of evincing an earnest desire for progress was shown. In this year's report to the Home Authorities, the Lieut.-Governor stated "That there is in this province at present a very laudable desire to improve the



LT. COLONEL THOMAS MILSOM.
Born in Bath 1819, Died in Halifax 1888.



LT.-COLONEL JOHN WIMBURN LAURIE, (1835-1912).
Deputy Adjutant-General of Militia.

“local defences of the country. The Legislature, besides continuing to grant £5,000 voted last year, have further sanctioned “a small payment being made to the adjutants of the different “militia regiments; they have also voted £1,000 for the erection of an armoury in the city of Halifax, and the payment out “of the provincial treasury of one-third of the cost of the erection of drill rooms whenever the remaining two-thirds are “raised by local contributions. That the residents themselves “have shown an eager readiness to qualify for their militia duties, and that a very large proportion of the officers have already attended or are at present attending drill.”

In 1864 the committee on the militia (consisting of seven members of the Legislative Assembly), recommended expenditure on a liberal scale for the efficient maintenance and improvement of the force, and expressed their gratification at the readiness and loyal response of the inhabitants of this province to the call made upon them to perform militia duty. “The “deportment and orderly behaviour of the men, thus forced to “an unaccustomed work, has been an unceasing theme of praise, “and shows that the military spirit of Nova Scotians is not “extinct but ready for action should the cry of war be ever heard “within our borders.”

An account of the militia at this period would be incomplete without mention of its Adjutant General Col. R. Bligh Sinclair (formerly of H. M. 42nd and 21st regiments), who was a capable and hard working officer. His periodical reports to the Lieut.-Governor and others are full of information, and teem with various suggestions for the improvement of the militia. He was ably seconded by a capable staff of Inspecting Field officers, prominent among whom was the late Lieut.-General Laurie, then a captain in H. M. 4th regiment (King's Own), but holding provincial rank of Lieut.-Col. The high degree of serviceable efficiency to which the force attained during the next few years, was, in no small measure, due to the energy of this officer, and of his *confreres* Lieut.-Cols. Crewe-Reade, Milsom, and Sawyer.

From 1861 to 1867 a varying number of capable drill sergeants of the Imperial army were employed for instructional purposes. They were a highly efficient body of men and underwent much hardship at times in the execution of their duty when visiting remote sections of the province in winter—all for very moderate remuneration. Their work was of the greatest possible benefit to the force.

In those days the official representatives of the Sovereign were often men of prominence, and the Lieut.-Governor at this time—the gallant Sir Fenwick Williams of Kars—personally supervised the militia and its work, and was a prominent factor in its success. As a soldier he naturally took the keenest possible interest in its welfare.

Much good work was done during this year (1864), towards maintaining and improving the force. The counties were divided into regimental districts: the officers and non-commissioned officers were brought into closer touch with the men under their command: the appointment of regimental adjutants was made one of competition, not of favor: and the position of commanding officer of a regiment was conditional on his efficiency, and not necessarily on his seniority in the corps. On 30th June 105 regiments appeared on the roll, with a total strength of 48,675 officers and men: six months later this had grown to 110 regiments embracing 56,111 of all ranks. During this year Gen. Hastings Doyle in the course of an interesting report to the Duke of Newcastle said “I was perfectly amazed at finding that in five days each regiment was able to perform three or four useful battalion manoeuvres very well, proving the aptitude of the population generally for militia services; and “I have little doubt that they will continue to improve: they “deserve the greatest possible credit for the spirited manner in “which they have responded to the call upon them for their “services, for although the report of the Adjutant General of “Militia shows 48,675 were enrolled and that 13,792 were absent from training, it must be borne in mind with reference



LT. GENERAL SIR CHARLES HASTINGS DOYLE, 1805-1883.
Appointed to Command the Forces in Nova Scotia in 1861.
(From a Photograph.)



CAPTAIN GEORGE PIERS, 1830-1910.
Commanding Chebucto Greys' Company,
Halifax Volunteer Battalion.

(In full-dress uniform adopted in 1865: rifle-green
with red facings.)

From a photograph taken about 1868.

“to the latter that a large proportion of that number were
“engaged in maritime pursuits.”

The volunteers continued in good form in the city of Halifax, but throughout the province their efficiency was subjected to a rigid test, a high standard being insisted on; only twenty-two efficient companies were reported in existence on 31st December, 1864; within a few months several of these were disbanded. Authority for the raising of seventeen more had been given and commissions issued to the officers: but for one reason or another they failed to organize.

In February, 1865, a special militia court was convened. It was composed of twenty-one officers, chiefly Lieut.-Colonels in command of regiments, and spent a week in deliberating on measures for the improvement of the force. It made several interesting and important suggestions, some of which were embodied in a new and voluminous Act passed by the Legislature a few weeks later.

The practice of the local forces this year was considered satisfactory. Besides the ordinary annual training of regiments, 38 Adjutants received a special course of sixty days drill at head-quarters with excellent results. Militia Artillery brigades had been organized in Halifax, Pictou, Digby, Annapolis and Sydney Mines. Five Halifax regiments of Foot, with a nominal strength of 3250 men, were also converted into Artillery to aid more effectively in the defence of the city. Interest in rifle shooting continued to increase and the meeting held at Bedford was a decided success. The roll of efficient regiments was 106 at the end of the year. These, with the Artillery just mentioned, gave a nominal strength of 59,379 of all ranks, of which a very large percentage turned out for the usual training. A large number of rifles were issued, as well as two thousand uniforms, while six thousand sets of accoutrements were obtained from the Imperial stores.

The amount voted for militia this year, \$81,578, broke all records.

As the militia gained ground both in efficiency and numbers, the volunteers gradually weakened, and, by the end of the year, had shrunk to twelve companies, six of them being in Halifax. This unlooked-for outcome was in marked contrast to the experience of the other B. N. A. provinces, where the volunteer movement flourished greatly, and became the basis of Canada's present system. Nova Scotia thus occupied a unique position in maintaining and developing a strong and fairly efficient system of what was practically universal military service.

It must be borne in mind however that the volunteer branch of the service was to a large extent a training school for the commissioned ranks of the militia, the "Chebucto Greys" Rifle company for instance having furnished no less than forty-three officers and the Scottish Rifle company, twenty-nine.

The whole organization was now to have a test of its efficiency—a test, which, though by no means a severe one, was sufficient to show, up to a certain limited degree, the merits and demerits of the system. Fenianism had been rampant for several months along the American boundary line: arms had been gathered, and other preparations for a raid on the B. N. A. provinces had been made with but little secrecy. Pillage had occurred, and the peace of all Canada was imperilled. Precautionary measures were taken by all the provinces, and on Saturday, 17th March, 1866, Sir Fenwick Williams of Kars, as Lieut.-Gov. and Commander-in-Chief, ordered out the Nova Scotia militia for active service, that is, to be in such a position as to be instantly summoned to arms if required. His proclamation was read to both Legislative Council and House of Assembly on the 19th, whereupon resolutions were unanimously passed by both Houses approving the Lt.-Governor's actions, and undertaking to provide for any expense required for the adequate protection of the province. All the members of both Council and Assembly then proceeded to Government House and personally presented the resolution to His Excellency, as a proof of their earnestness in the matter. The pro-



SYDNEY MINES VOLUNTEERS,
Organized 1859, under Lt.-Col. Richard Brown.

Through the courtesy of The North Sydney Herald. From a photograph in the possession of Lady Barrington. (1861.)

The picture represents the 4th regiment of militia in training at Sydney Mines. The company is being drilled by the late Lt.-Col. Richard Brown, Major Yorke Barrington, Captain Bridge and Capt. R. H. Brown. On the right of the first line is the late Sir Yorke Barrington. Other officers in the picture are the late Harry W. Archibald, Mr. Harry Fraser, Henry Langwith. The regiment was composed as follows: Lt.-Col.—Robert Bridge. Major—Yorke Barrington. Captains—R. H. Brown, John Barrington, Henry W. Archibald, David B. Brown, Richard Partridge, Albert Corbett, Adj., Thomas Scott. 1st Lieuts.—Edward Robson, William Oram, jr., John E. Morrill, Daniel Graham. 2nd Lieuts.—Walter Young, Robert S. Bridge, Law Laffin, Laughlin McDonald, William Burke, Adj. A. Corbett, Capt., Surgeon—Thomas E. Jeans, M. D.



MAJOR YORKE AINSLIE WALKER
BARRINGTON, (1816-1893.)
(Uniform of Sydney Mines Volunteers.)



LT.-COL. HON. WILLIAM ANDERSON BLACK,
(1789-1864.)
4th Halifax Regiment, 1842.

clamation was read to the Halifax regiments mustered that day on the Common, and was received with great enthusiasm and vociferous applause.

The call to duty was effective and the response prompt. The regular machinery for selecting the men for active service was too cumbersome; and instead of using the ballot a call was made for volunteers from the various regiments and an ample supply of men thus obtained. In Halifax a volunteer battalion was called out and remained on active service in the city until 14th April, when they were inspected and released from duty, the danger of immediate invasion having evidently passed; but a few weeks later, when the Imperial garrison was reduced by the despatch of H. M. 62nd regiment to New Brunswick, 150 men of the local forces were again ordered out and remained on duty until the end of July. In the surrounding counties about 4,000 men came forward for duty, of whom 2,700 were allotted to various specified points for defensive purposes. The Inspecting officer reported that "nothing could exceed the earnestness and spirit with which all classes came forward to meet the threatened attack. Day after day during the most unfavorable season of the year, men mustered and devoted themselves to drill. The best trained officers gave their services and drilled two or three squads a day, travelling from place to place without any remuneration. The proficiency obtained in manoeuvring under arms was most remarkable" and much more to similar effect. In the western part of the province we get less detail, but learn that the proclamation was cheerfully responded to by all ranks: whole regiments and volunteer companies offered their services. In Cape Breton and the eastern counties the same patriotic spirit was evinced.

Apart from the special work arising from the threatened invasion, substantial progress was made by the force during the year, stimulated naturally by the progress of the Fenian movement and the need of efficient defensive measures. Several new Foot regiments of militia were organized and 45,767 men were trained during the year, with a total enrollment (on paper),

of 58,031. It was in the artillery branch of the service, however, that the greatest measure of advancement was apparent: A special inspecting field officer, Lieut. Col. Hardy (Captain Royal Artillery), was put in charge in April, and the work and routine was assimilated as closely as possible to that of the R. A. Time does not permit me to give much detail: briefly it may be stated that there was a remarkable increase in strength both of gunners and guns. Three brigades, comprising 19 batteries and 1727 men, were established in and about Halifax alone: while companies or batteries were maintained at Pictou, Chester, Lunenburg, Liverpool, Yarmouth, Digby, Granville and Annapolis.

The volunteers showed a slight gain, a total of 779 as against 638 in 1865, yet it was evident that the substantial progress of the militia, due to radical improvements in the drill period, regulations, and supervision, practically absorbed the military strength and energy of the province. Outside of Halifax only five volunteer companies, with a total strength of 356 of all ranks, were returned as being efficient. These were Windsor, Tatamagouche, Shubenacadie, Shelburne, and Somerset.

The total military expenditure for the year was \$114,460, of which \$44,334 was due to the threatened Fenian invasion. The issue of arms, accoutrements, uniforms and stores was on a much more general and business-like scale than in previous years. Interest in musketry practice was carefully nursed and the number of competitors at the provincial rifle matches at Bedford again showed an encouraging increase. No less than 341 military officers were trained during the year under the permanent staff at head quarters. A Naval Brigade was organized under Lieut. Col. Wier, which, by the following spring, contained two companies comprising 554 men fully enrolled, and 16 other companies in process of organization. Two drill sheds for this brigade—one in Halifax and one at Liverpool—had been erected.

Militia legislation this year (1866), was of importance only as reflecting public sentiment regarding Fenians and Fenian-



PRIVATE RICHARD LAWSON,
Chebucto Greys Volunteer Rifle Company.
(Full dress uniform with Enfield Rifle, about
1862).



PRIVATE CLIFFORD R. KINNEAR,
Chebucto Greys Volunteer Rifle Company.
(Undress uniform, with shell jacket and forage-cap,
about 1862.)

ism. One law provided for increased penalties for refusal or neglect to take the oath of allegiance, another gave power to any magistrate to summarily seize (under warrant), any arms or ammunition said to be for purposes hostile to the province: another dealt directly with treason and treasonable Acts: while a fourth made certain minor changes in the existing militia Act.

The following year, 1867, was one of special and unique interest to the people of this province. Political feeling ran high and absorbed general attention. The militia service was not wholly unaffected by this, and there was a strong feeling of unrest regarding the future: in some districts an erroneous idea was current that the militia law of the province had been suspended. In spite of these drawbacks, it is pleasing to note that good substantial work was done throughout 1867 on lines similar to those of 1866 and preceding years. 41,997 officers and men attended the annual training out of a nominal strength of 59,147. The various regiments were as a rule reported on satisfactorily: one in a remote part of Inverness county obtained special praise, while two in Antigonish, two in Kings and one in Guysboro received unsatisfactory mention. The Artillery branch remained in very good shape, although deprived of the service of its very efficient inspecting field officer, Lieut.-Col. Hardy, R. A., who returned to England during the summer. The volunteers fell away a little from the standard of 1866, the returns for 1867 showing a total of only 639 effectives.

A word here as to the question of armament may be of interest. As has probably been gathered from what has already been said, a great shortage of fire-arms for the force always existed; and while strong efforts had been made during recent years to remove this defect, many regiments were deplorably weak in this vital respect, and remained so until the end of the chapter. In the following year, when the force came under the Dominion government, the number of rifles available for the whole force of 50,000 men was only 17,160. This meant that in case of a sudden invasion or call to arms, two-

thirds of the whole defensive force of the province would have been useless for practical purposes until arms could be brought out from England.

The Naval Brigade had not made much progress this year owing to lack of qualified instructors; it subsequently, however, developed into a useful and efficient branch of the service.

Confederation of the B. N. A., provinces had by this time gone into effect and Nova Scotia's control of its citizen soldiery was practically at an end. This brings the provincial militia into a new regime; and its story as part of the Dominion's forces will no doubt, be told by some future historian.

In conclusion let me quote from Colonel (and Adjutant-General), Sinclair's report for 1867, a paragraph or two which gives an excellent summary of the progress attained:

"The annual five days' training of the whole force has now fully attained the object originally aimed at,—the complete organization of the whole force of men of martial age for administrative purposes, and giving them a tolerable idea of parade, discipline, and marching, while the more intelligent have gained an amount of military knowledge which would be useful if required.

"It affords me sincere pleasure to be able to report that nothing could exceed the willing and loyal spirit of the Militia of Nova Scotia during the five years they have been called on to render gratuitous services, which must have been heavily felt."

The Militia thus honorably closed its career as a provincial force with credit to its men, to their leaders, and to Nova Scotia.

J. P. EDWARDS.

(Late Major 3rd Regt. V. R. C.)

DISCUSSION.

Senator William Ross, ex-minister of Militia, stated that the militia of Nova Scotia had been a credit to the Province.



ADJT.-GEN. COL. R. BLIGH SINCLAIR,
(Late of 42nd and 21st Regiments.)



LT.-COLONEL JOHN BREMNER,
(Captain 1st Co. Halifax Volunteer Artillery, 1805.)

It was composed of good officers and men interested in the work. The Senator claimed the honor of having brought in the Act establishing the Royal Military college at Kingston.

Senator Power said that Nova Scotia had led British America in training a militia, and that in his opinion the work of forming and training a militia in the earlier days had not been surpassed by the present methods.

Lt.-Colonel Bremner spoke of the self-sacrificing spirit of the officers and men in the early period of his life and of the splendid work accomplished, especially in Halifax. Sir Sandford Fleming had been a private in the ranks.

Lt.-Colonel F. H. Oxley spoke of his early experience in the Scottish rifles, membership in which qualified for a vote.

Lt.-Colonel John T. Wyle, who served in the naval brigade, gave interesting reminiscences of Halifax military life and spoke of the splendid service of the Guysboro militia.

Lt.-Colonel James E. Curran thought the paper had added much in the way of information on a very important subject.

Major H. E. Gates thought the paper was of such general interest that it should be published for the information of the militiamen of Nova Scotia.

Harry Piers, who knows the earlier period well, considered that Major Edwards had done great service to the Province in putting into permanent shape matter of such great importance.

Paymaster Annesley, a naval officer, thought the paper threw a flood of light on the growth of a great military movement which had profoundly affected the British empire.

Major Anderson, R. C. E., of the headquarters staff, a graduate of Kingston, spoke in appreciative terms of the paper.



Kars 29th Sep:
1853
This has been a glorious day for the British arms
W. Williams

GENERAL SIR FENWICK WILLIAMS, Bart., (1799-1888.)



**Lt. Colonel, the Hon. Richard John Uniacke, H. M. Attorney General
for Nova Scotia.**

From a Miniature by J. Clow, 1831, in the possession of Lt. Col. Crofton
Uniacke, Southsea, Eng.



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN CHARLES BECKWITH, (1789-1862)



SIR JOHN EARDLEY WILMONT INGLIS, K. C. B.

"The Hero of Lucknow"

(1814-1862.)

(From a Painting in the Council Chamber, by William Gush.)



COLONEL JOSEPH FREDERICK WALLET DesBARRES.

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES.

- Fig. 1** *Coatee of officer of 1st. Halifax Regiment of N. S. Militia, about 1830.* Made of dark blue cloth with red facings (collar and cuffs), and gilt lace (on collar, cuffs, and flaps of false pockets on skirts), buttons, skirt ornaments and epaulettes. White turn-backs to skirt, terminated by the skirt ornament, viz., the number "1" between thistles surmounted by crown. Buttons bear number "1" with a garter inscribed "Halifax Regiment of Militia," surmounted by crown. (Formerly in possession of late Nepean Clarke. Photographed by courtesy of Lt.-Col. Chipman, 66th P. L. F.).
- Fig. 2** *Gilt full-dress epaulettes of uniform shown in Fig. 1.*
- Fig. 3** *Shako plume of white feathers with gilt base. Belonging to uniform shown in Fig. 1.*
- Fig. 4** *Smooth-bore carbine with brass mountings; steel lock marked "V. R. Tower, 1844," and stock stamped with owner's name, "W. Lea." Length 36 inches. Said to have been used in 1st Company (Halifax) Volunteer Artillery. (H. Piers).*
- Fig. 5** *Light-infantry shako, 3rd Halifax Regiment of N. S. Militia, about 1835.* Made of black beaver-felt, with black leather peak and top, bronze plate and chin-strap (acanthus leaf design), bronze-colored pompon, and black cap-cords. The plate consists of a star, bearing a laurel wreath surrounding a Maltese cross, in the centre of which is a bugle with cord and the number "3" surrounded by a circle inscribed "Nova Scotia Militia;" the whole surmounted by a crown. (Property of Capt. Henry Heckler, 63rd Halifax Rifles).
- Fig. 6** *Shako of N. S. Militia, about 1868. (Regulation pattern).* Dark blue cloth, black leather peak, silver shako-plate, surmounted by crown, with gilt centre bearing mayflower design, inscribed "Nova Scotia Militia" on garter, and white and red pompon with silver base. (E. M. H. Vieth, 15th Regt. N. S. M.).
- Fig. 7** *Forage-cap of 15th Regiment of Nova Scotia Militia, about 1868.* Blue-black cloth, black leather peak, black oak-pattern band, and gilt-cord number. (E. M. H. Vieth). The other regiments wore, instead of the number, a silver-cord laurel wreath enclosing the monogram N. S. M. in script letters, surmounted by a crown.
- Fig. 8** *Belt buckle, gilt, worn by some officers of N. S. Militia, 1867. (H. Piers.).* Most officers wore the special silver buckle of the N. S. Militia shown in Fig. 13.
- Fig. 9** *Outer circle of belt buckle, bronze, of the Chebucto Greys, 1859-73. (G. Piers).* The centre of the buckle bore a crown.

- Fig. 10** *Shako-plate, rough bronze, of the Mayflower Rifles. Maltese cross, bearing bugle with cords, surrounded by circlet inscribed "Mayflower Rifles," the whole surmounted by a crown. (Capt. H. Heckler.).*
- Fig. 11** *Shako-plate, bronze, of the Chebucto Greys, 1865-73. Escutcheon bearing arms of the Baronets of Nova Scotia, surmounted by scroll inscribed with the corps motto, "Pro aris et focis." Worn surmounted by a crown. (G. Piers). From 1859 to 1865 the plate was heraldically colored.*
- Fig. 12** *Button, silver, of officer's tunic, N. S. Militia, 1868. Mayflower design with crown above, surrounded by "Nova Scotia Militia." (E. M. H. Vieth).*
- Fig. 13** *Belt buckle, officer's, silver, 1868. Mayflower design (leaves badly formed), surmounted by crown, circle inscribed "Nova Scotia Militia." (E. M. H. Vieth.). Some belt buckles had hook ("snake") fastening.*

Uniforms of Officers of Line Regiments of the Nova Scotia Militia, 1863-1869.

The following detailed description of the militia officers' uniforms, prior to the force being taken over by the Dominion, is worth preservation.

Full-dress Uniform.

Tunic: scarlet cloth; facings white cloth; silver lace, buttons and shoulder-cords; buttons, mayflower design with crown above, surrounded by "Nova Scotia Militia." *Shako*: dark blue cloth; plate, a silver star surmounted by a crown, the star bearing a gilt garter inscribed "Nova Scotia Militia" inclosing mayflower design; pompon, worsted, white above and red below, in silver socket; silver gorgon's-head ventilator at back of cap. *Badges of rank* (on collar): lt.-colonel, crown; major, star; captain, crown and star; lieutenant, crown; ensign or 2nd lieutenant, star. *Sword and spurs*: lt.-colonel and major, brass scabbard and brass spurs; adjutant, steel scabbard and steel spurs; other officers, black leather scabbard with gilt mountings; sword-knots, white leather or gold-worked. *Waist-belt*: white enamelled leather; belt-elasp, silver, mayflower design in centre, surmounted by crown, circle inscribed "Nova Scotia Militia." A hook clasp was also worn by some, as well as buckles which were not of the special Nova Scotia design. *Cross-belt and pouch*: belt (over left shoulder) white enamelled leather; pouch, black leather with silver crown and number of regiment. *Trousers*: black cloth with scarlet stripe. *Gloves*: white leather.

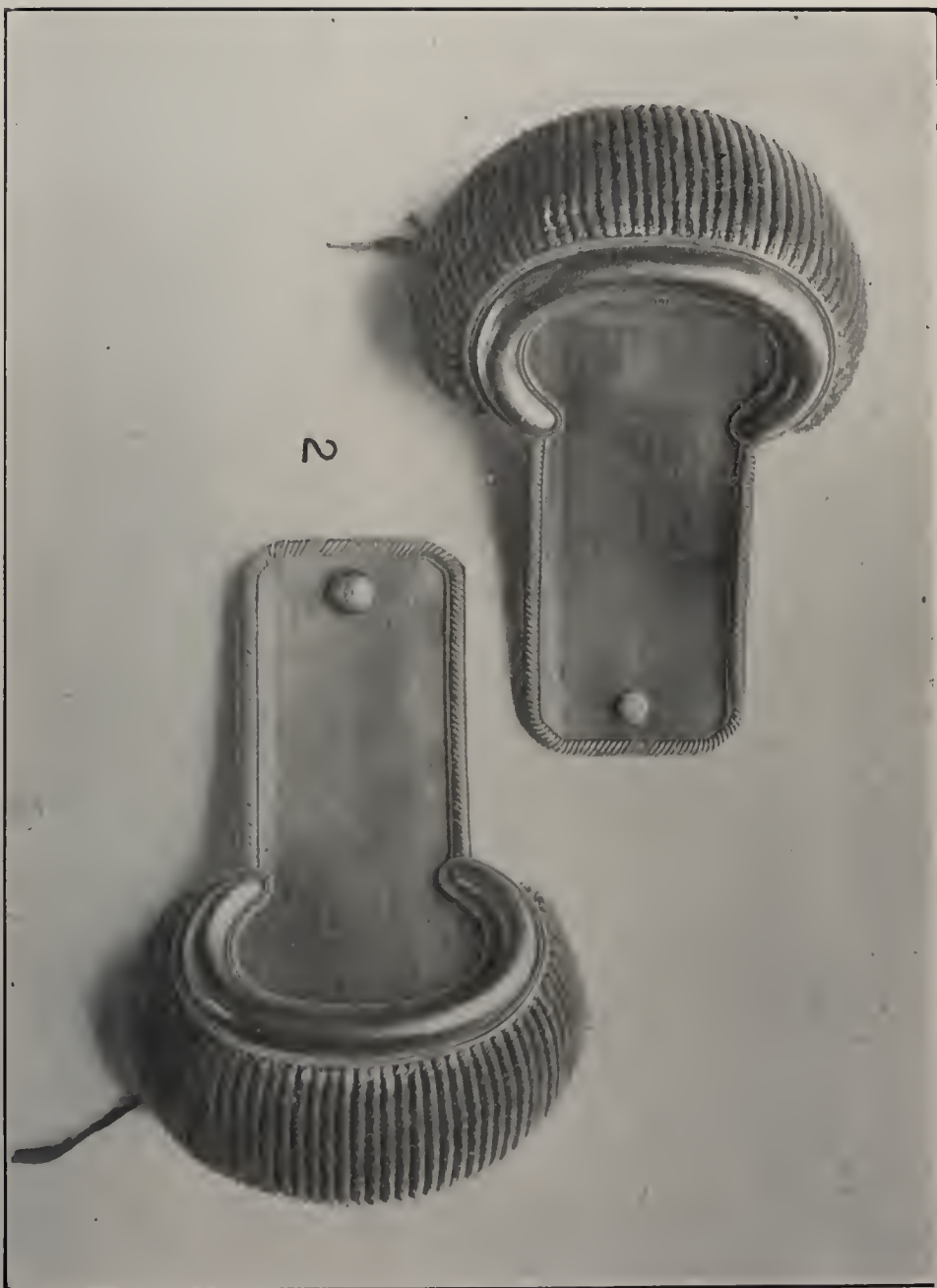
Undress Uniform.

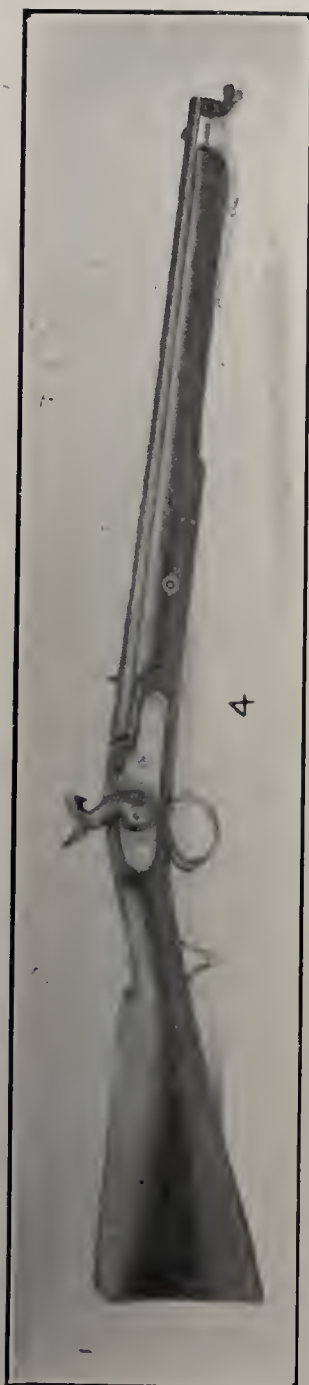
Patrol jacket: scarlet serge (no facings or lace); buttons, silver, same design as those on tunic; shoulder-cords of thick silver-cord, twisted. *Forage-cap*: blue-black cloth with black leather peak; black oak-pattern band and black button and looped braid design on top; badge a silver-cord laurel wreath, inclosing interlaced script monogram "N. S. M.", the whole surmounted by a crown. (The 15th Regiment had permission to wear the number of the corps instead of the above-described badge). *Sword and spurs*: as in full-dress. *Waist-belt*: worn under jacket. *Cross-belt and pouch*: as in full-dress. (Some cross-belts were of white buffed leather).

Artillery regiments wore dark blue tunics with red facings and a bushy head-dress, and a few other very minor variations in uniform. Rifle regiments wore rifle-green with red facings and black belts.

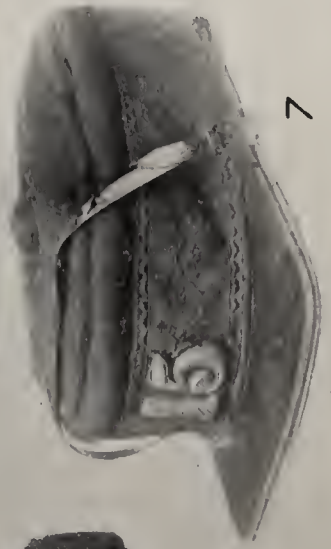


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Edwards, Joseph Plimsoll
The militia of Nova Scotia,
1749-1867

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